

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



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Chief

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WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

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October 1, 2009

Mr. Peter DeVries, Chair
Washington State Building Code Council
Department of Commerce
PO Box 42525
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Mr. DeVries:

As the State Building Code Council is aware, the 2009 Edition of the Residential Code requires mandatory fire sprinklers be installed in all new residential construction. This provision was added to the code through a national consensus process that included the removal of numerous fire safety provisions previously adopted by the International Code Council.

The current state amendment process includes a suggestion to eliminate the mandatory fire sprinkler requirements within Washington State. If the mandatory fire sprinkler requirements are eliminated, I strongly recommend that the State Building Code Council retain the 2006 Residential Code until the Residential Code Technical Advisory Group can identify all of the fire safety construction provisions that were diminished as a trade-off for mandatory fire sprinklers.

This process must provide a thorough review followed by sound recommendations that are brought forward to the State Building Code Council for further state adoption. The elimination of mandatory residential fire sprinklers from the 2009 Residential Code without following the recommendations included in this letter will make our Residential Code and state amendments less restrictive than those currently in place. The result is the potential for a significant negative impact on the safety of citizens and property.

If my office can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant State Fire Marshal Anjela Pimentel at (360) 596-3903.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael G. Matlick".

State Fire Marshal Michael G. Matlick
Fire Protection Bureau

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